

**To:** Morin, Jeff[Morin.Jeff@epa.gov]; EOC Public Information[EOC\_Public\_Information@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Hart, Daniel[Hart.Daniel@epa.gov]  
**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Wed 8/19/2015 7:36:39 PM  
**Subject:** RE: EOC REVIEW NEEDED to add contact names RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Thanks!

**From:** Morin, Jeff  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 3:05 PM  
**To:** EOC Public Information; Harrison, Melissa  
**Cc:** Hart, Daniel  
**Subject:** RE: EOC REVIEW NEEDED to add contact names RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

I posted the FWS contacts on page

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-resources-information>

under Other Federal resources

the "Resources" page is linked from EPA's "Contact us" page

Jeff Morin  
Office of Web Communications  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
w 202-564-6553

**From:** Senn, John **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 2:26 PM  
**To:** Harrison, Melissa; Morin, Jeff  
**Cc:** Hart, Daniel  
**Subject:** Re: EOC REVIEW NEEDED to add contact names RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

OK--sounds good...just wanted to check.

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**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 12:09 PM  
**To:** EOC Public Information; Morin, Jeff  
**Cc:** Hart, Daniel  
**Subject:** RE: EOC REVIEW NEEDED to add contact names RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

This information is exactly what FWS gave me for the website.

**From:** Senn, John **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 11:05 AM  
**To:** Morin, Jeff; Harrison, Melissa  
**Cc:** Hart, Daniel  
**Subject:** Re: EOC REVIEW NEEDED to add contact names RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Is FWS OK having specific people's names on the website along w/their contact info?  
We heard from ATSDR that their rep who's contact info we'd had posted previously was getting some harassing calls.

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**From:** Morin, Jeff  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 10:57 AM  
**To:** Harrison, Melissa; EOC Public Information  
**Cc:** Hart, Daniel  
**Subject:** EOC REVIEW NEEDED to add contact names RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Thanks.

Asking EOC approval to add.

I can add a "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service" on page <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-resources-information>

Jeff Morin  
Office of Web Communications  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
w 202-564-6553

**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 10:55 AM  
**To:** Morin, Jeff; Hart, Daniel; Davis, Tim  
**Subject:** RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Sorry for the confusion. We should post the names/emails below as contacts for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

John Wegrzyn ([john\\_wegrzyn@fws.gov](mailto:john_wegrzyn@fws.gov)) and Maria Boroja ([maria\\_boroja@fws.gov](mailto:maria_boroja@fws.gov)) -  
Regional Office Contacts

Laura Archuleta ([aura\\_archuleta@fws.gov](mailto:aura_archuleta@fws.gov)) and Drue DeBerry ([drue\\_deberry@fws.gov](mailto:drue_deberry@fws.gov)) -  
Colorado Ecological Services Office

**From:** Morin, Jeff  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 8:55 AM  
**To:** Harrison, Melissa; Hart, Daniel; Davis, Tim  
**Subject:** RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

or just these two

John Wegrzyn and Maria Boroja are the Regional Office Contacts.

Laura Archuleta and I are the contacts for the Colorado Ecological Services Office.

Jeff Morin  
Office of Web Communications  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
w 202-564-6553

**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 8:52 AM  
**To:** Hart, Daniel; Davis, Tim; Morin, Jeff  
**Subject:** Fwd: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Could we add these contacts to the GKM website today? Thanks! Melissa

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

Office: (202) 564-8421

Mobile: (202) 697-0208

[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "DeBerry, Drue" <[drue\\_deberry@fws.gov](mailto:drue_deberry@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** August 18, 2015 at 3:01:40 PM EDT  
**To:** "Harrison, Melissa" <[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Laura Archuleta <[laura\\_archuleta@fws.gov](mailto:laura_archuleta@fws.gov)>, Maria Boroja <[maria\\_boroja@fws.gov](mailto:maria_boroja@fws.gov)>, John Wegrzyn <[john\\_wegrzyn@fws.gov](mailto:john_wegrzyn@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Melissa,

For Region 6, I recommend the folks cc'd as contacts.

John Wegrzyn and Maria Boroja are the Regional Office Contacts.

Laura Archuleta and I are the contacts for the Colorado Ecological Services Office.

Drue DeBerry

Acting Colorado Field Supervisor until 10/17/15

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office  
134 Union Blvd., Suite 670  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Office: 303 236-4774

Cell: 703-472-7777

[drue\\_deberry@fws.gov](mailto:drue_deberry@fws.gov)

On 10/18/15 I resume as:

Sage-Grouse Energy Coordinator

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd.

Lakewood, CO 80228

(303) 236-4264

On Thu, Aug 13, 2015 at 9:20 AM, Harrison, Melissa <[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)> wrote:

Totally doable! I've cc'd Danny Hart. If you tell him who exactly who you would like listed, he will make it happen. Thanks!

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

Office: (202) 564-8421

Mobile: (202) 697-0208

[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

On Aug 13, 2015, at 9:08 AM, Will Meeks <[Will\\_Meeks@fws.gov](mailto:Will_Meeks@fws.gov)> wrote:

Melissa,

If that's an option perhaps we should. Noreen Walsh (our Regional Director) expressed an interest to note our involvement and that may be the appropriate outlet. Thoughts?

Will Meeks

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

Acting ARD External Affairs (through September 2015)

303-236-4510 (w)

720-541-0310 (c)

**From:** Harrison, Melissa [mailto:[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:57 PM

**To:** Gavin Shire

**Cc:** Ivy Allen; Michael Thabault; Maria Boroja; Will Meeks; Drue DeBerry

**Subject:** Re: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Fwiw. I was fine with the original. I believe you are providing technical assistance. We have a website we are updating. If you'd like, we could add contact info for you guys. Just let me know what you would like. Thanks!

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

Office: (202) 564-8421

Mobile: (202) 697-0208

[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

On Aug 12, 2015, at 10:01 AM, Gavin Shire <[gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov)> wrote:

So are we not already providing assistance? This change would make it seem not.

G

Gavin G. Shire  
Chief of Public Affairs  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
MS: EA  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803  
Tel: 703-358-2649  
Cell: 703-346-9123  
[gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov)

**From:** Ivy Allen [mailto:[ivy\\_allen@fws.gov](mailto:ivy_allen@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:57 AM  
**To:** Michael Thabault; Maria Boroja; Will Meeks  
**Cc:** Drue DeBerry; Gavin Shire; [Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Hi Mike and Maria,

Thank you for the update and we will edit the statement as suggested. Should we be planning for any webpages that have limited information on them about wildlife with a redirect to EPA for additional information? There could also be a updated feed for wildlife specific information on the page? The papers are picking up and running with wildlife information pretty heavily as of yesterday. There is very little contact or agency information out there for the public to read besides what the media is printing. I can't help but think there should be a source the public can go to that is not a media outlet.

*Ivy Allen | Tribal Communication Specialist | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Mountain-Prairie Region  
| 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80228 | [Ivy\\_Allen@fws.gov](mailto:Ivy_Allen@fws.gov) | 303-236-4575*

**From:** Michael Thabault [mailto:[michael\\_thabault@fws.gov](mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov)]



**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:44 AM  
**To:** Boroja, Maria; Ivy Allen  
**Cc:** Drue DeBerry  
**Subject:** Re: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Ivy pls see Maria's edits.

Michael Thabault

Assistant Regional Director

Ecological Services

Mountain Prairie Region

On Aug 11, 2015, at 3:56 PM, Boroja, Maria  
<[maria\\_boroja@fws.gov](mailto:maria_boroja@fws.gov)> wrote:

**FYI - I would argue that these changes are accurate and necessary.**

#### **On the Record**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to provide technical assistance to EPA to minimize the impact of the waste water release and ensure all necessary measures are taken to safeguard federally protected species and their habitats.

#### **Background**

At this time, the federally protected species at greatest risk are the Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback sucker, and Flannel Mouth Sucker in the San Juan River, at the confluence with the Animas River. Critical habitat is designated for the Pike minnow and Razorback sucker at the confluence. To date, we have no reports of fish kill. Suitable riparian habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, southwestern willow flycatcher and the yellow-billed cuckoo may also exist along the Animas and San Juan Rivers.

On Tue, Aug 11, 2015 at 3:37 PM, Michael Thabault  
<[michael\\_thabault@fws.gov](mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov)> wrote:

Is this OK? Seems fine.

Michael Thabault

Assistant Regional Director

Ecological Services

Mountain Prairie Region

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ivy Allen <[ivy\\_allen@fws.gov](mailto:ivy_allen@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** August 11, 2015 at 2:48:50 PM MDT  
**To:** Will Meeks <[will\\_meeks@fws.gov](mailto:will_meeks@fws.gov)>, Michael Thabault  
<[michael\\_thabault@fws.gov](mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov)>  
**Subject: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release  
Spill Update**

Hello Will and Mike,

To be prepared for FWS to comment to the public or media, at the regional and HQ levels, does the statement below meet your approvals? Please provide any comments or feedback. Thank you.

### **On the Record**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing technical assistance to EPA to minimize the impact of the waste water release and ensure all necessary measures are taken to safeguard federally protected species and their habitats.

### **Background**

At this time, the federally protected species at greatest risk are the Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback sucker, and Flannel Mouth Sucker in the San Juan River, at the confluence with the Animas River. Critical habitat is designated for the Pike minnow and

Razorback sucker at the confluence. To date, we have no reports of fish kill. Suitable riparian habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse may also exist along the Animas River.

*Ivy Allen | Tribal Communication Specialist | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Mountain-Prairie Region | 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80228 | [Ivy\\_Allen@fws.gov](mailto:Ivy_Allen@fws.gov) | 303-236-4575*

**From:** Gavin Shire [[mailto:gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 2:37 PM  
**To:** Ivy Allen; [betsy\\_hildebrandt@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov); Jessica Kershaw  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

We should have an if-asked statement on this. Doesn't need to be anything fancy, something along the lines of

### **On the Record**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing technical assistance to EPA to minimize the impact of the waste water release and ensure all necessary measures are taken to safeguard federally protected species and their habitats.

### **Background**

At this time, the federally protected species at greatest risk are the Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback sucker, and Flannel Mouth Sucker in the San Juan River, at the confluence with the Animas River. Critical habitat is designated for the Pike minnow and Razorback sucker at the confluence. To date, we have no reports of fish kill. Suitable riparian habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse may also exist along the Animas River.

Thoughts?

G

Gavin G. Shire  
Chief of Public Affairs  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
MS: EA  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803  
Tel: 703-358-2649  
Cell: 703-346-9123  
[gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov)

**From:** Ivy Allen [[mailto:ivy\\_allen@fws.gov](mailto:ivy_allen@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 2:52 PM  
**To:** Gavin Shire  
**Subject:** FW: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

FYI. . .

*Ivy Allen | Tribal Communication Specialist | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Mountain-Prairie Region | 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80228 | [Ivy\\_Allen@fws.gov](mailto:Ivy_Allen@fws.gov) | 303-236-4575*

**From:** Will Meeks [[mailto:Will\\_Meeks@fws.gov](mailto:Will_Meeks@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:36 PM  
**To:** FW6 RO EA  
**Subject:** FW: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Will Meeks  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

Acting ARD External Affairs (through September 2015)

303-236-4510 (w)

720-541-0310 (c)

**From:** Noreen Walsh [mailto:[noreen\\_walsh@fws.gov](mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:15 PM

**To:** Gary Frazer; Betsy Hildebrandt; Jim Kurth; Steve Guertin; Robert Dreher; Dan Ashe

**Cc:** Michael Thabault; Drue DeBerry; Matt Hogan; Will Meeks

**Subject:** Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

## **Gold King Mine Release Spill Update**

### **Background/Timeline:**

**August 5**, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, the EPA and State Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety triggered a release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek. On August 7, the spill was estimated at one million gallons.

**August 8**, the release from the Gold King mine reached the San Juan River.

**August 10**, Region 8 increased the estimate to approximately three million gallons of mine waste water released. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

**August 12**, FWS staff from R6, R2, and HQ will hold a coordinating call to discuss the spill and roles and responsibilities.

### **Potential Impacts:**

The state of Colorado and EPA's Office of Spill Response are evaluating the release and potential impacts of the acid mine drainage in Cement Creek and the Animas and San Juan Rivers.

We are providing technical assistance to EPA, and the state and our staffs from Colorado Ecological Services and Upper Colorado River Recovery Programs are coordinating with Region 2's San Juan River Recovery Program to ensure all necessary measures are taken to protect trust resources potentially impacted by the release.

Our national spills coordinator is working with EPA and other affected bureaus to minimize the impact of the release. The Bureau of Reclamation is planning to increase flows in the San Juan River over the coming days to help dilute the impacts of the spill on aquatic species. We will continue to provide technical assistance and support as necessary.

At this time, the greatest potential trust species impact is to the Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback sucker, and Flannel Mouth Sucker in the San Juan River, at the confluence with the Animas River. Critical habitat is designated for the Pike minnow and Razorback sucker at the confluence. To date, we have no reports of fish kill. Colorado Parks & Wildlife placed fish in cages in the Animas River near Durango on August 6. Of 108 fish, one has died. Suitable riparian habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse may also exist along the Animas River.

We will provide another update as the situation warrants. Please don't hesitate to call if you have questions. ES has the lead; Mike Thabault and Drue DeBerry are our best sources for any questions you have. An interesting blog on this spill:

<http://blog.yourwatercolorado.org/2015/08/10/the-orange-animas/>

*Noreen Walsh*

*Regional Director*

*Mountain-Prairie Region*

*U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

*303 236 7920*

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Maria T. Boroja

Regional Environmental Contaminants Coordinator

Chief Energy, Water & Climate Branch

Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd.

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office: (303)236-4518

[maria\\_boroja@fws.gov](mailto:maria_boroja@fws.gov)